

MEMORANDUM

TO:

Rosemary C. Smith

Acting Associate General Counsel

FROM:

Office of the Commission Secretary

DATE:

July 25, 2003

SUBJECT:

Ex Parte Communication Regarding

the Majette AOR (2003-15)

Attached is a memorandum from Evan Rikhye, Executive Assistant to Commissioner Smith regarding the above subject matter.

cc:

Commissioners Staff Director General Counsel Press Office Public Disclosure

Attachment



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463



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MEMORANDUM

TO:

MARY DOVE, COMMISSION SECRETARY

FROM:

EVAN RIKHYE, EXEC. ASST. TO COMMISSIONER SMITH

SUBJECT:

EXPARTE COMMUNICATION REGARDING THE MAJETTE

AOR (2003-15)

I wanted to inform you of an *ex parte* communication that I received with regard to AOR 2003-15, submitted on behalf of Congresswoman Denise Majette (D-GA).

On Friday, July 18, I spoke on the telephone with Brian Lewis, Counsel to Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY), about the Commission's recent vote on AOR 2003-12. Our conversation subsequently turned to the AOR 2003-15, in which Congresswoman Majette has requested guidance about establishing a legal defense fund.

According to Mr. Lewis, a decision by the Commission denying Congresswoman Majette the ability to raise non-federal funds for her legal defense fund (which is permitted by Congressional rules) could be viewed, by some Senators and staff, as trampling on the House and Senate Ethics Committees' sole jurisdiction in this area.

I told Mr. Lewis that Senators and Members of Congress who are interested in this matter should be encouraged to file comments for the public record.